



## FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The weekend has seen a lot of discussion, both locally and nationally, around the re-opening of Primary Schools. We have monitored developments closely and will continue to do so over the coming hours and days. We have used this information, along with many other factors, to inform our decision making around this situation.

**We have made the very difficult decision to postpone the full-reopening of school in the short term.** For Tuesday and Wednesday, we will offer Keyworker/Vulnerable provision in school (details below) and offer a remote learning package to other children. A formal review of the situation and all relevant information will take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. An update will be provided at that point.

The decision has largely been guided by the following issues:

- Our responsibility to keep staff and children safe in school.
- A significant increase in local cases of COVID-19 in both Cumbria and Allerdale (with clear evidence and recent experience of managing such cases within the school community).
- Colin Cox (Cumbria's director of Public Health) and leaders of Cumbria County Council's recommendation that schools in Cumbria should be closed at the present time to assist with reduction of opportunities for transmission to protect the wider community and its services. They have stated they will support schools with their decisions around reopening.

All of the above points however, have been weighed against the arguments for keeping school fully open from tomorrow and, at the present time, we believe this cautious approach is the best course of action for everybody.

We truly believe that children should be in school and that any school closures should be kept to an absolute minimum. That is why we are planning on frequent and formal reviews of the situation to ensure we can return children to the classroom as soon as possible.

We plan to spend the next days working hard on our risk assessments (in conjunction with the public health team and consultants) to see how we can return quickly and safely. We will also be



keeping a close eye on the local and national picture and these things will help to guide us through the remainder of the week and into next week.

It is also important to state that we have worked over the weekend with our neighbour schools within the Cockermouth Consortium to ensure that provision is consistent and have supported the decision making process for one another.

### **What to do if you're a Key Worker:**

A list of key workers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

If you are eligible as a key work and your child needs to attend school, please email [schoolclosure@fairfieldprimary.co.uk](mailto:schoolclosure@fairfieldprimary.co.uk) as soon as possible and state their name, class and days in which they will attend this week (we do not offer part days).

Children will be taught in school within their own year group and we will minimise mixing of bubbles where possible, depending on numbers of children in school.

Key Worker children can still access the WAC provision – please book this as normal.

We are currently waiting for a response from the meals provider regarding school lunches so an update will come out soon.

### **Online Provision:**

Our online provision will start from tomorrow morning (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>). Details of this can be found via your child's class dojo account. Please ensure that you're aware of the login details for both the ClassDojo account and for Microsoft Teams (using your child's school email).

If you are in need of any support with technology to access the provision, please let us know and we will look to support you as much as we can. We have a small number of devices we can lend out.

It has been a very challenging time making these decisions which involve a lot of factors but please be assured that a lot of consideration has gone into it and we have the best interests of everybody at the heart. The decisions made have been done so in consultation with the board of Trustees who support our approach.



If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Mr C J Steele  
Headteacher

